

BN Graduates Internship Programme Can Consolidate Coalition Seats - Ahmad Zahid
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- Trainees of the Barisan Nasional Graduates Internship Programme around the country can help consolidate the electoral seats won by the BN, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said the programme, under the jurisdiction of the BN Back Benchers Club, was an important platform to ensure the coalition's victory in the next general election. The next general election, the 14th, is due in June 2018.

"Over the last four years, we have implemented various programmes with the highlight being the general election. If what we are doing now is not effective, it will be like water off a duck's back," he said at the close of the programme, MANTAP 6, at the Parliament lobby here today.

A total of 98 trainees were honoured at the event, and 13 of them were offered the opportunity to continue to serve BN MPs, among them three ministers and two deputy ministers.

Sixty-eight of the 98 trainees are from public institutions of higher learning, 22 from private institutions of higher learning and eight from overseas UMNO clubs.

The MANTAP Programme is into its sixth edition since it was started in 2010.

Chaired by Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Razali Ibrahim, the main objective of MANTAP is to make undergraduates an echelon of the national leadership besides meeting a demand from society to rejuvenate the leadership in BN.

It is also aimed at providing undergraduates the room and opportunity to understand and appreciate the duties of an MP.

MANTAP is a leadership programme that is held almost every year before the UMNO General Assembly.

This year, the trainees were scheduled to serve with the MPs from Oct 17 to Nov 23. The handing over of the MANTAP 6 trainees to MPs was officiated at by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on Oct 16 at Seri Perdana in Putrajaya.

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